

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 8, and 12-14 are amended. Claims 1, 8, and 12 are independent claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the remarks set forth hereinbelow.

Interview of February 25, 2005

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Timothy Henn and Primary Examiner Ngoc-Yen Vu for taking the time to discuss this application with Applicants' Representative, Jason Rhodes during the personal interview of February 25, 2005.

A Substance of the Interview is provided below.

Substance of the Interview

Identification of Claims Discussed: Claim 1 was discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed: U.S. Patent No. 6,335,760 to Sato (hereafter Sato) and U.S. Patent No. 6,137,534 to Anderson (hereafter Anderson).

General Results: Agreement was not reached as to whether claim 1 was presently patentable over the Sato/Anderson combination. However, proposed amendments for overcoming this rejection were discussed.

Specification

An amendment has been made to correct a typographical error in the substitute specification filed on March 23, 2004. Applicant submits that this amendment adds no new matter to the present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, because there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the first image data reading device" recited in each of these claims. The Reply After Final filed on September 22, 2004 included claim amendments that were entered in accordance with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on December 3, 2004. In these claim amendments, claims 1-3 were amended to change "the first image data reading device" to --the image data reading device--. In view of these amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Summary of Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6-13, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,335,760 to Sato (hereinafter Sato) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,534 to

Anderson (hereinafter Anderson). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Anderson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,151,730 to Nagasaki et al. (hereinafter Nagasaki).

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Anderson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,067,029 to Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi).

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-13, and 15-20

As amended, independent claims 1 and 12 recite reading original image data from an interchangeable recording medium; if necessary, converting the original image data according to a display size; and storing the original image data (if no conversion is necessary), or both the original image data and converted image data (if conversion is necessary) in the first recording medium. Furthermore, amended claims 1 and 12 recite that either the original or converted image data is transferred from the first recording medium to a display memory before being displayed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification fully supports the above amendments at, e.g., page 5, fourth full paragraph (describing interchangeable types of recording media, e.g., memory card or smart medium in a digital camera); and Fig. 2, steps S20-230 (describing the transferring of original/converted image data to display memory for purposes of displaying image).

It is respectfully submitted that none of Sato and Anderson teach or suggest the abovementioned features in claims 1 and 12.

Sato discloses an image reproduction device 10 that receives a compressed image signal from a memory card 16, expands the image signal to an initial low resolution, and incrementally increases the resolution to an appropriate resolution for the display device 14 being used. In particular, the expanded image is stored in a frame memory 14 while the resolution is being incrementally expanded (col. 5, lines 57-67; col. 7, line 66 - col. 8, line 8). Sato further discloses that a thinning process may be performed on this image signal in order to lower the resolution to the appropriate level for the display device. This thinned image signal is stored in the video memory 18 in order to be displayed (col. 8, lines 8-15). Thus, Sato discloses receiving an image signal from a memory card 16, and

transferring the signal to an internal memory after it is processed.

On the other hand, Anderson discloses an image capture device that captures raw image data and stores it in frame buffers 536 and input buffers 538 (col. 7, lines 22-41). From the raw image data in these buffers, Anderson's device generates an enhanced image file 600 that includes: the compressed full-sized image data 604, thumbnail image data 606, and screennail image data 610 (col. 7, lines 31-41; col. 8, lines 1-14). Anderson further teaches that the enhanced image file is stored to a non-volatile memory 350 and, optionally, to a removable memory 354. Thus, Anderson teaches capturing raw image data to an internal buffer, and transferring the image data to a removable memory after it is processed (i.e., after the enhanced image file is created).

Thus, neither Sato nor Anderson teaches or suggests reading the image data from an interchangeable recording medium, and recording the image data to another recording medium, which is different from the display memory, as required by independent claims 1 and 12. Although Sato's device reads compressed image signal from a memory card, this signal is processed and stored to a video memory for purposes of being displayed. While Anderson's device stores image data to a removable memory (e.g.,

memory card), Anderson teaches that this image data is received from an input buffer -- not an interchangeable recording medium.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that combining Sato and Anderson's teachings would result in a device that reads compressed image data from Anderson's enhanced image file 600 in Anderson's removable memory 354, expands the compressed image data according to Sato's incremental image expanding method, and stores the data in Sato's video memory 18 for purposes of being displayed. Thus, the Sato/Anderson combination fails to teach or suggest the aforementioned features of claims 1 and 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, and 15-20 are allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claims 1 and 12. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-13, and 15-20.

Claim 8

Claim 8 has been amended into an independent claim above. Furthermore, amended claim 8 now recites that the image data reading device, which is operably connected to the first recording medium, determines whether to read original image data

or display image data from the first recording medium based on information in a management table file.

In the Office Action, the Examiner takes official notice that management tables are well known in the art. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's taking of official notice does not include determining from a management table file whether to read original image data or display image data from the first recording medium. Furthermore, Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Sato and Anderson of using a management table file to determine whether to read original image data or display image data from a recording medium.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submits that independent claim 8 is now allowable at least for the reasons set forth above. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 14

Applicants respectfully submits that Nagasaki fails to remedy the deficiencies of Sato and Anderson set forth above in connection with independent claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 14 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on allowable

claims 1 and 12. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5

Applicant respectfully submits that Takahashi fails to remedy the deficiencies of Sato and Anderson described above in connection with independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 5 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

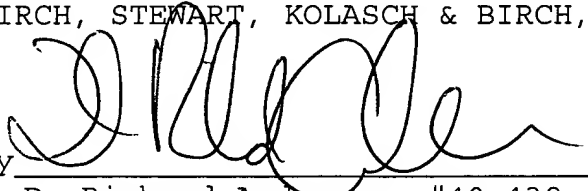
In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the various rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in connection with the present application.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305), at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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